MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITA YVONNE ROCHETTE OZZELLO

Yvonne Rochette Ozzello, professor emerita of French, died at home in Madison on November 19, 1999. Over the course of more than a quarter of a century, she made tremendous contributions to the Department of French and Italian.

Professor Ozzello was born on June 20, 1933 in Versailles, France. After completing her licence at the Sorbonne in 1954, she came to the University of Wisconsin-Madison on a Fulbright; she later returned in 1969 in what would turn out to be a permanent move. After completing her Ph.D. in linguistics in 1978, Professor Ozzello worked her way through the ranks of the Department of French and Italian, and in 1988 she became departmental chair with the rank of full professor. She served as chair from 1988 to 1992, and in 1994 was named associate dean for the humanities in the College of Letters and Science, a position in which she served for four years, until illness forced her to step down. In 1996 she had the honor of receiving the title of "Officier de l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques" from the French government in recognition of the manifold contributions she had made to French culture and its dissemination in the United States.

It would be difficult to detail all of the many facets of Professor Ozzello’s contributions to the Department of French and Italian. She brought an extraordinary range of talents to the position of departmental chair: an endless store of initiative, patience, energy, and resourcefulness; judiciousness in planning; attention to detail; and great generosity in giving of herself. No detail ever seemed too small for her to take an active interest in it; no issue seemed too large for her to tackle it.

A dynamic, much-beloved teacher, Professor Ozzello contributed to the teaching of French language and literature in many different ways, including the development of curriculum and the formation of future teachers. Her talent and conscientiousness as an educator were recognized by no fewer than four teaching prizes: the Wisconsin AATF Distinguished Educator Award, in 1984; the UW-Madison Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award and the Wisconsin AFLT Distinguished Foreign Language Educator Award, both in 1988; and the UW-Madison Letters and Science Outstanding Teaching Award, in 1992.

As associate dean for the humanities, Professor Ozzello, with her habitual aplomb, drew upon her superb administrative skills to guide the humanities through a period of sometimes difficult changes. From 1992-98 she was closely involved with the Lilly Teaching Fellows Program, acting as director from 1993-94 and as coordinator from 1994-98. An extremely active member of the profession, Professor Ozzello regularly played the role of liaison between the department and the university on the one hand, and important professional organizations on the other, including the Modern Language Association, whose Advisory Committee on Foreign Languages and Literatures she chaired from 1993-1995; the College Board, whose French Advanced Placement Test Development Committee she chaired from 1984-1991; and the Mellon Foundation, which she served as a member of the Graduate Fellowship Selection Committee for the Midwest Area from 1993-95.

In the area of publication, she coauthored two textbooks, including Paroles, a first-year French textbook published in 1999. She penned a number of teacher’s guides for advanced placement courses, and published articles on a wide variety of topics relating to the study of and the teaching of literature and culture as well as to language pedagogy.

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A polyglot as well as a polymath, Professor Ozzello had boundless intellectual curiosity, and she was extremely generous with her knowledge, her time, and her wisdom. She will be greatly missed by the university community.

Professor Yvonne Ozzello is survived by her partner, Elaine Marks, professor emerita of French and Women’s Studies; and her children, Paul Ozzello of San Francisco and Brigitte Ozzello of New York City.

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